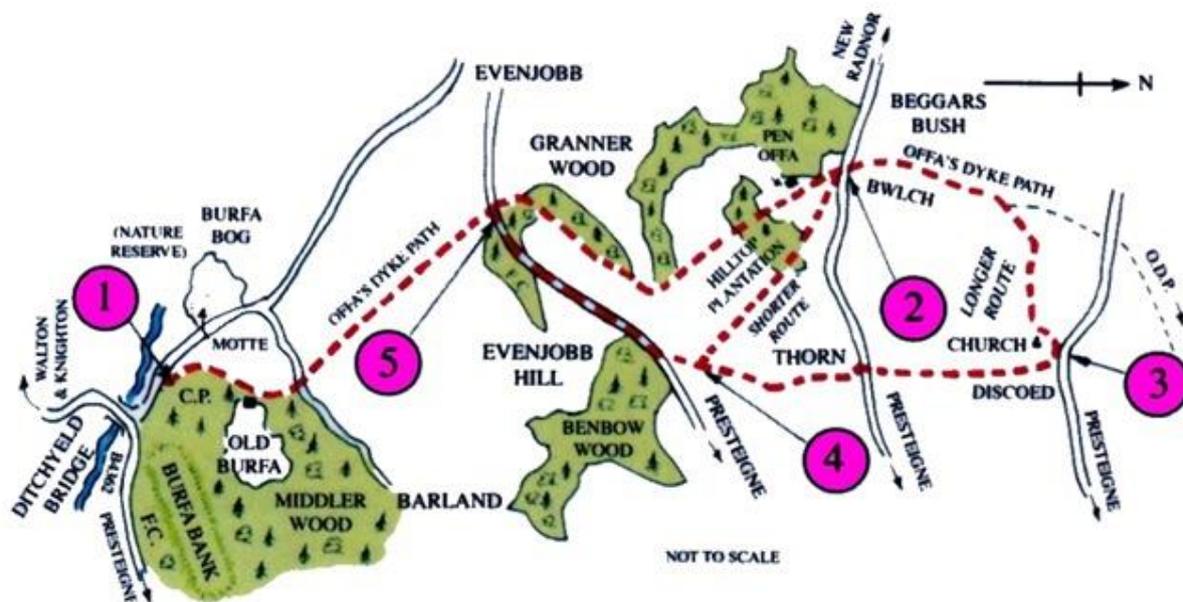


## DITCHYELD BRIDGE, OLD BURFA, DISCOED, THORN

Shorter Walk: 4 miles (6 kms) Allow 2 hrs. Longer Walk: 6 miles (9.5 kms), 400m ascent. Allow 3 hrs.

A moderate walk with two sharp and short climbs on Offa's Dyke Path with lateral options to places to interest with extensive views.

Start walk where cars are parked at the side of the forestry road with its junction with the minor road Ditchyeld Bridge to Evenjobb – just north-west of the bridge. This is on the B4362 some 4 miles west of Presteigne. OS Grid ref SO278608.



### PLACES OF INTEREST:

**OLD BURFA.** A 14th century long house with a 17th century Jacobean cross wing added. Well restored in the 1970's.

**OFFA'S DYKE AND OFFA'S DYKE PATH.** The 8th century boundary earthwork put up in the reign of Offa, King of Mercia (Central England) against the Welsh; the basis of the present National Trail which runs for 177 miles from Chepstow to Prestatyn. For further information send S.A.E. to the Offa's Dyke Association, Knighton, Powys, LD7 1EW.

**DISCOED.** A hamlet with a castle mound and a delightful little church mainly rebuilt in 1869. Upper House is a fine timbered farmhouse.

**BURFA CAMP.** Rises up from the forestry track where walk starts. There are several footpaths to the Iron Age hill fort round the summit from which there are wide views.

**BURFA BOG.** A nature reserve managed by the Radnorshire Wildlife Trust and reached 400m north of the starting point where turn (L) onto metalled lane and at road junction at a gate immediately opposite the farm. For further information send S.A.E. to the Trust at Warwick House, High Street, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 6AG.

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(1) A few yards up the forestry road, go forward on a green lane. After 400m passing Old Burfa. At road go (L) then immediately (R) over a stile onto the Offa's Dyke Path. Follow the

path passing over a series of stiles, with fine views to Radnor Forest on (L). Steps lead down to cross a minor road; soon go (R) up a flight of wooden steps and turn (L) along the Dyke. Cross a wide forestry track and follow a clear path first on a shelf high up in Granner Wood - then in open country, on the edge of a steep cwm to the (L). Turn (L) down a cart track and, soon, by a corrugated steel barn, (R) up a steep bank and over the stile at the top. Follow the (RH) edge of the field up to woods at hilltop plantation. Descend from the wood and follow the Dyke to the (R) of Pen Offa farm to cross the Beggar's Bush to Presteigne minor road.

(2) The shorter route leaves the main route here - see below.

Continue forward by the Dyke with an old hedge to the (L) and, after the first field, descend steeply three further fields, with superb views, to the Lugg Valley. About 50m into the next field, turn (R) on cross path towards the buildings of Discoed ahead. At the (R) bottom corner of the field, go through the (RH) of two gates and forward towards Discoed Church. (A splendid profile view of Offa's Dyke is behind). Go to the (R) of a sheep pen and continue ahead along (RH) of fence line to a gate. Go through the gate and immediately (L) over a stile and (R) into the adjoining field. A gate leads onto the lane in front of a white house, with new bungalow and St. Michael's Church, Discoed, to the (R).

(3) Before the white house go (L) down the lane to the Presteigne to Maes Treylow road and at once, turn (R) up small road. Pass Discoed Castle mound, the church and Upper House, all on the (R), and continue up the steep road for 800m to the Presteigne to Beggar's Bush road at Thorn. Cross this road at junction and continue ahead up a by-way with farm buildings to the (R) and soon a view to the (L) towards Presteigne reveals the Cleve Hills on the far horizon.

(4) (Just before the top of the rise is reached, the shorter walk described below joins the main route across a stile to the (R).)

The by-way soon drops to the Presteigne to Evenjobb road, by a house on the (L). Turn (R) down the road to reach an "Offa's Dyke Path" signpost in 800m.

(5) Turn (L) here and return along the Dyke and pass Old Burfa to the starting point - with views ahead to Herrock Hill and Hergest Ridge.

#### SHORTER VARIATION:

Go (R) on the Beggar's Bush to Presteigne road for 200m, then diagonally (R) over a stile by a gate. Keep forward over two long fields with an old hedge to the (L) and fence and hedge to the (R), then only with the latter. (Fine views to Discoed Church below (L) and the Cleve Hills ahead in the distance). At the end of the 2nd field, cross stile and turn (R) to rejoin the main route on the byway.

**Walk submitted by Kathy & Ernie Kay, revised by Emlyn & Shirley Williams**